

PIONEER PATHS

Newsletter of the Herb Society of America Pioneer Unit

April 2021

Volume 28, Number 8

MONTHLY UNIT MEETING

April 14 **Board Meeting**

April 26 **Sprouting Grass** Full Moon

> April 30 **Arbor Day**

Date: April 8, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m. Meeting

Location: This meeting will be held on Zoom. Look for the link to

the meeting on our listserv.

Directions: You have only to turn on your computer or other internet

device, click on the Zoom link, and watch the

presentation.

There may be an opportunity to participate in the meeting

after the presentation.

Program: All About Basil

Speaker: Brandi Keller

Master Gardener Program Coordinator, Harris County

(pre-recorded)





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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Today the March winds are blowing. What a crazy month this has been weather-wise. I had packed away my sweaters and long sleeve shirts and had to quickly uncover them, especially for that Thursday and Friday of the Plant Sale.

What a sale! We did well! Thank you to everyone and especially to those in charge...they received an extra goodie from the Unit.

For those who have not heard the news, I am moving to Taylor, Texas, this month, on April 8, the day of our meeting. However, Phoebe will lead the way on Zoom, and I shall return in May – I hope at an outside venue with food! I am not deserting the group and will stay my tenure. I shall miss my little home here with the beautiful vistas as I look out from my porch to see a gorgeous bed of bluebonnets and out my kitchen window a patch of poppies.

I do hope you will take the time to read all of this newsletter and especially pay attention to Ginger Heath's dream. As we worked in the Pharmacy Garden and added new plants, she related it to those of us helping. She has a good idea which we will be following up on. Thank you as well to those who helped Cathy Kietlinski in the Sensory Garden and those volunteers still watering when needed.

That about does it for me...see you soon.

Best,

Kathe Forrest Chair



FROM THE PROGRAMS CHAIR

Happy Spring, everyone! Didn't it come in quickly?! It's a great time in your garden too. If there was a positive side to winter storm Uri, it was that all the dead plants have left us with a blank slate upon which to dream and plan. By now I'm thinking if something hasn't shown signs of life, it's probably gone. Time to think of something else for that spot!

Lovely as this current weather is, we know it won't last long so time to think of heat-loving plants. The queen of warm weather herbs has to be basil [or bah-sule :)]. That brings me to our next presentation which will be a pre-recorded talk by Brandi Keller entitled "All About Basil." Brandi is the Master Gardener Program Coordinator for Harris County. I found this program excellent for both the novice and experienced basil lover and hope you will too.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 8, beginning at 10 a.m. I will be hosting the Zoom meeting as Kathe will take a rare absence as she's moving that day — thankfully not too far away!

Phoebe Lake Programs Chair

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 3 — Sally Reynolds

April 11 — Susan Bame

April 22 — Ann Allen

April 24 — Catherine Gardiner

April 30 — Pat Schmidt



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MINUTES OF UNIT MEETING HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA - PIONEER UNIT MARCH 12, 2021

Kathe Forrest, Chair, welcomed all members attending via Zoom. She turned the meeting over to Susan Yancey to talk about the Plant Sale.

Susan Yancey, Plant Sale, stated that we are doing really well and have 94 orders at this time. There will be plants reserved for the pharmacy garden at Festival Hill based on a list from Henry Flowers, and we will get those planted. Also, Cathy Kietlinski, Sensory Garden, has plants reserved for the Sensory Garden that will need to be planted. Susan mentioned that if there are enough plants left over, there will be a half price sale for members. However, she was not sure there would be.

Cathy Nitsch, Thyme Well Spent, said there are 26 orders at this time. The orders will be set up at the Plant Sale and put with everyone's plant orders.

Patty Mills, Hospitality, discussed snacks for the volunteer days at the Plant Sale, and various people volunteered to bring snacks.

Phoebe Lake, Programs, confirmed tomatoes will be arriving at Festival Hill for the sale on Tuesday. She mentioned she is working with the presenter for the April meeting, and she will let all know whether it will be a Zoom or outside meeting.

Myra Simmons, Festival Hill Gardens, stated the Festival Hill gardens still have a lot of dead foliage, debris, and downed limbs. Volunteers are needed whenever anyone can work!

Cathy Kietlinski mentioned that the fruit trees are budding and the plants are looking good overall at the Sensory Garden. There is still some maintenance needed. She can always use help, and please contact her, as she lives nearby to the garden.

Barbara Solis, Scholarships, stated she has two Pioneer Unit members to receive a scholarship; Sara Holland and Mary Doebbeling will be researching and reporting about Bitters. She has not heard anything from the university level. Barbara added that she was looking for suggestions on how to get information out there to let students know we have scholarships available.

Kathe stated the next board meeting is April 14th.

Phoebe and Patty had door prizes. Patty Mills asked 3 questions, and there were 3 winners.

Betty Pior asked Belinda Weatherly from the Culinary Group to remind members to save seeds for next year's Forum. Belinda said let's keep that in mind and hope for a normal Forum next year.

Diana Sellers, Membership, reminded all that April is the beginning of membership renewal and Linda Rowlett will be putting that form in the April Pioneer Paths newsletter.

Kathe said to remember to invite new people to our meetings, and then she closed the meeting and thanked all for coming.

Respectfully submitted, Lori Yeats Secretary

PIONEER UNIT BOARD MEEITNG January 21, 2021 Virtual Meeting on Zoom

<u>Present</u>: Kathe Forrest, Phoebe Lake, Diana Sellers, Debi Thomas, Esther Hartman, Ann Lugg, Cathy Nitsch, Cathy Kietlinski, Patty Mills, Joanna Hagler, Jana Rinehart, Myra Simmons, and Linda Rowlett.

<u>Programs</u>: Phoebe Lake, Vice Chair Programs, addressed the Board on the challenges of finding speakers, noting that some were not comfortable presenting on Zoom or not set up for it. There was discussion about a variety of ways to get speakers and different ones Phoebe had contacted. She is hopeful to get some field trips and tours set up for this year.

<u>Hospitality</u>: Patty Mills, Hospitality, addressed getting clarity about having box lunches for the Plant Sale. She will be getting with Susan Yancey. Patty will also be working with Phoebe and posting in the Newsletter, with possible Door Prizes for the monthly meetings.

<u>Membership</u>: Diana Sellers, Membership, stated Track It Forward is being utilized well. There was a discussion concerning people who have not been at the meetings recently, and it was decided to have the Board follow up with these people and be sure all is well and encourage their attendance.

<u>Treasurer</u>: Debi Thomas, Treasurer, reported there has been little activity lately. She said she was expecting income from the Plant Sale in March and more as the year progresses with dues.

Standing Committee Reports:

Education: Joanna Hagler has nothing to report at this time.

Archives: Esther Hartman will be part of the endeavor to touch base with members.

Sensory Garden: Cathy Kietlinski stated the fruit trees that were planted are doing well. She will be scheduling another workday for the beds coming up.

Festival Hill Garden: Myra Simmons will be planning another workday, possibly closer to the Plant Sale, as the gardens need sprucing up after the freeze.

Communications: Ann Lugg is working on advertising the Plant Sale and will be posting it on the website. She has notified websites and publications that she previously put the Plant Sale dates on to take the sale information down. There will be updates about the Sale on our Facebook page.

Plant Sale: Jana Rinehart discussed the sale with the Board, and it was decided that the Plant Sale will be to friends and family only, to be opened up as we see needed, after members have ordered.

Thyme Well Spent: Cathy Nitsch has halted any more jelly making. Items already made will be for sale along with what is left from last year that is still in great shape.

Scholarships: Barbara Solis, who was not present, sent a message that there has only been one member who has shown interest in a scholarship.

It has been decided to open up our monthly Unit meetings to others, via our Facebook page. Kathe Forrest, Chair, will put a Zoom link on the page.

Respectfully submitted, Lori Yeats Secretary Page 6 PIONEER PATHS

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Living up to its name, March roared in and continued to be windy all month. It started off a little wild this morning, but as I write this newsletter article, the rain has arrived. I am praying that the rain is busily washing out all the pollen in the air, especially the oak pollen, which is about to be the death of me. I'm ready to be outside, enjoying the lovey Spring weather, planting all the wonderful plants I purchased at the Plant Sale last week.

The Pioneer Unit Plant Sale and Time Well Spent Shoppe sale were huge successes. Many volunteers worked tirelessly setting up, distributing, and shutting down the event. It was great to be outdoors and working with friends.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PROCESS

It's that time of year again when we start the Pioneer Unit membership renewal process. The Renewal Form is in this newsletter. You can also access this form on our website - Herb Society of America: Pioneer Unit www.herbsocietypioneer.org. Click on the Membership tab >click on Forms > scroll down and click on Membership Renewal Form >click on the link "membership renewal form-fill in." We would appreciate having all Renewal Forms submitted by May. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Diana Sellers at 512-461-7175 (text or call) or you can email me at sellers2000@yahoo.com.

Because we are still meeting via Zoom, please submit your completed form and check to:

HSA-Pioneer Unit ATTN: Membership

PO Box 23

Round Top, Texas 78594

Choose the membership category applicable to you to determine the amount of your check:

Membership Categories

Active – Singe \$67 / Joint \$98 Affiliate (Unit or Member-at-Large) – Single \$12 / Joint \$18 Life – Single \$12 / Joint \$18

Volunteer Hours

Don't worry if you haven't been able to obtain the required 20 volunteer hours this year.

Remember that due to the ongoing struggle for members to earn the required 20 volunteer hours this year, the Pioneer Unit Board approved a proposal to waive the requirement for this year. While all contributions are greatly appreciated, we don't want any member to worry that they won't be able to re-join for next year due to issues with volunteer hours. Please continue recording any volunteer hours you have performed in the Pioneer Unit's Track It Forward app so all the great work that has been accomplished can be recognized. So far, since July 1, 2020, 1,239.7 volunteer hours have been recorded in Track It Forward. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work.

Have a wonderful Easter and enjoy Spring!! Herbally Yours, Diana Sellers Membership Chair

CULINARY GROUP

The group continues to meet via Zoom. The April meeting topic is Chilies and the May program is Basils. Please contact me blw1071@gmail if you would like to receive the meeting link. All meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Belinda Weatherly

HORTICULTURE STUDY GROUP

The Horticulture Study Group is happy to report that the seeds of Prospera Basil and Persian Basil that we planted in February sprouted and will be transplanted to the outdoors in May. Prospera is a downy mildew resistant variety that we are eager to see growing here. We received our other basil plants from the Plant Sale. (What a great job by Susan Yancey, Jana Rinehart, and their crew in running the plant sale this year!) Our experiment with these plants will include measuring their growth over the year and comparing container-grown plants to those grown in the ground. We will monitor the night -time temperatures and wait until the danger of frost is past before transplanting our 4-inch basils outdoors. We also decided to give our 4-inch potted basils a little haircut and trim prior to planting. Royceanna Kendall and Connie Gwyn will present the program on the cultivation of basils at our April 22 meeting. A photo of Prospera basil seedlings is below.

Madeline Johnson



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Plant Sale 2021 Very Successful!

Many, many thanks to all the Pioneer Unit members who helped orchestrate the first ever Drive-Through Plant Sale. Your orders, and those of your family and friends, meant that ALL the plants found a new home. Even the few stragglers who were taken to the Bluebonnet Master Gardeners chapter meeting in Sealy on the Tuesday morning after the sale. Apparently French sorrel and Basil Sacred Tulsi Amrita were the least popular. Celebrity tomatoes the most popular. And Rosemary - any kind - in high demand after the great freeze.

Special thanks go to Jana Rinehart who worked tirelessly for the weeks preceding and the week of the sale. Danny, her husband, even pitched in with trips to the storage unit and help with Excel formatting of the order form. A Renaissance man. Jana always has a practical answer to the challenges and a way to see the bright side. Not my strong suit. I will miss our daily messaging. I hope we will celebrate together soon and compare war stories.

Thanks too to Cathy Nitsch and her Thyme Well Spent Shoppe crew! I know they will be glad when they can offer a full range of products in a "normal" sale. All the herbal products they create (the soap! the curd! the spice blends!) are expertly packaged and marketed. It is all so very impressive.

And thanks to Debi Thomas, trusty financial guru. Debi made frequent trips to meet me and Cathy with our preorder checks, to meet Kathe to have checks co-signed, to deposit checks in the bank, to bring us dollar bills for change at the sale. Always with a smile.

We could not have had a plant sale at all without our "Plant Orderer" (surely there is a better title for this committee member?) Henry Flowers. Although working a full time job, he managed to create the list of plants we sold, order in quantities appropriate to our reduced sale structure, send long missives to the listserv with details about specific varieties of plants, take a day off from work to set up the plant sale, and take a load to the storage unit when the plant sale was over. And always with a sense of humor.

Thanks too to Patty Mills for great hospitality in "Motel Room 8." I think that Keurig saved us on at least two cold mornings.

There were many members who went above and beyond. I hope we didn't wear them out so that they will step up again for future plant sales.

Many hands make light work,

Susan Yancey

WE SOLD OUT!

Many thanks to everyone who shopped our Thyme Well Spent Shoppe. We made a profit of over \$1,100 which will be used to support the Festival Hill Gardens and the Sensory Garden at Brenham Elementary. A special thank you goes to all the ladies who made jam, jelly, or lemon curd (Wanda Hubbard, Carla Lessard, Becky Nichols, Jane Press, Pat Schmidt, Jean Zavoda) and our mustard makers (Barb Solis and Belinda Weatherly). As always, Pat Cox was responsible for the lotions, and Becky Nichols made the very popular goat milk soap. Henry Flowers and Kay Scanapico delighted the senses with the spice and herb blends. A special thank you goes to our shoppe volunteers (Cathy Kietlinski, Carla Lessard, Patty Mills, Louise Rice, Diane Sellers and Belinda Weatherly) for keeping the store up and running during this very unusual year. We hope we will be back next year with all our old favorites, beautiful handmade goods, and some new surprises. Bigger and better will be our motto for 2022!

Cathy Nitsch

SEED COLLECTION

Seed collection: in anticipation of a more normal Forum in 2022, we should be preparing for our seed collection activities. Our poppies, larkspur, bluebonnets, Queen Anne's Lace and other early spring bloomers are up and growing now, so start preparing to collect your seeds. For information about collecting and storing seeds, you can check Ladybird Johnson's Wildflower Center site. www.wildflower.org>seeds>collection



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PHARMACY GARDEN DREAMING

So, what's on your mind at 3 a.m.?

It was the fourth night of the Plant Sale. I had spent three mornings at the Sale, but I was also committed to building new garden beds with my husband Bob at our home. Every day was physical and a challenge. Every night I fell into bed exhausted, sleeping like a baby. Except—this fourth night of the Plant Sale I was restless; I could not find deep sleep. At 2:15 a.m., my dog roused me growling and barking at something on the porch. I let her out; I was now alert, and my thoughts began to wander to the next day's Festival Hill schedule.

"Hmm...the Pharmacy Garden. I'm to work tomorrow morning with others adding new plants to the various beds Asia, Mid-Eastern, Australia, etc." (The Pharmacy Garden, originally created by Madelene Hill, in recent years has fallen to neglect and needed attention.)

"Wonder who will be the volunteers tomorrow; I've never been much of a garden volunteer; it's hard work and I'm no spring chicken. How long will I last; will I become bored and tired? Maybe not; I spent an hour in the Pharmacy Garden on Monday, and it actually was quite fun and rewarding...chatting with others, hands in the dirt, outdoors, just the way I like it. Okay, I'll give it 2 hours; I need the volunteer time."

As I thought about the layout of the garden and wondered what country bed I might be working in, I mused that garden volunteers can be hard to come by, at least if I am an example. The brain continued to ramble...

"Say! Why not assign each country bed to one or two persons? Each bed is not that large and would be easily managed once it is in order. We could take pride in our one bed in addition to learning about the plants and the medicinal qualities. Maybe we could have a Pharmacy Team; maybe we could make a unit presentation or write country-bed reports for the newsletter."

The brain is in gear....!

"With a Pharmacy Garden TEAM a name should be created. Spinning off from 'Pharmacy', what could it be? Garden Doctors, Nurses, First Responders?"

And then my mind took a real jump into wherever...

"Pharmers!! Pharmers without Borders!! After all, the garden is a medicinal herb collection of nations and cultures around the world. An acronym could be 'PhwoB...PHWOB'!! What a ring that has!! And, further, it would even make a good password."

I'm stifling my laughter under the covers.

So, what's on your mind at 3 a.m.?

Ginger Heath



Kathe Forrest took these pictures to show that it is possible to work in the Pharmacy Garden without sitting on the ground — thus making it easier to make Ginger's dream come true!

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BOOK REVIEW: Writing Wild by Kathryn Aalto

I loved this book! The book is a collection of essays about 25 women who have written and/ or are writing about nature. Aalto provides interesting details about each of the women and long quotations from their work. After each essay, Aalto includes brief information about other writers of similar ilk or a list of other works written by the subject of the essay. The women are discussed in roughly chronological order, beginning with Dorothy Wordsworth. Dorothy kept a journal that is the subject of Aalto's essay about her, and I was surprised to learn how much her brother, the poet William Wordsworth, "borrowed" from her writings — without giving her any credit. The last writer Aalto discusses is Elizabeth Rush who writes about climate change. Aalto calls Rush's book Rising a combination of "the best of lyrical nature writing and science journalism . . ." In between these two authors, Aalto includes essays about poets (such as Mary Oliver), garden designers (including Vita Sackville-West), activists (like Rachel Carson), and other women interested in the natural world.

Aalto's book acquainted me with many new writers. She provided quotations that were long enough to give a sense of each woman's interests and writing style. It was easy to prepare a reading list with new titles while making my way through the essays.

I read this book as a selection discussed by the West District Book Club of the Herb Society of America. This group is reading and discussing (via Zoom, which allows members from all over to participate) nonfiction books with herbal leanings. Aalto's book did not specifically cover any writers who focused on herbs, but many persons interested in herbs are naturally (pun intended) interested in nature and preserving the natural world.

Linda L. Rowlett. Ph.D.



HERB SOCIETY OF AMERICA NEWS

For those of you who like to read and discuss books, in case you missed it in the email from the Herb Society of America, here is information about three new herbal fiction book clubs sponsored by HSA.

New! Herbal Fiction Book Clubs

Book Club #1 - 2nd Wednesdays of the month at 1:00 p.m.

March 10 - Thyme of Death by Susan Wittig Albert

April 14 - The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

Book Club #2 - 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 2:00 p.m.

March 17 - Brother Cadfael series, A Morbid Taste for Bones by Ellis Peters

April 21 - The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

Book Club #3 - 4th Wednesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m.

March 24th - Brother Cadfael series, <u>A Morbid Taste for Bones</u> by Ellis Peters April 28th - <u>A Memory of Violets: A Novel of London's Flower Sellers</u> by Hazel Gaynor, Nicola Barber, et al

I realize the March meetings have already occurred, but I included them here to give a sense of the books being read and discussed. HSA is in the process of developing a web page for the book clubs. Currently you can access information at herbsociety.org where you will have to go to the Member Log In tab [at the far right on the home page] and log in with your user name and password. As soon as you are on the member page, you can scroll down to see the book lists included above. For each book club, there is a link to the book club meeting that is only active at the time of the meeting.

Here is the list of discounts currently offered to members of HSA. Take advantage of these discounts on products, magazines, and online classes.

\$5 off each order on The Herbal Brain | Discount Code: save5

15% Discount at **Urban Herbal** | Discount Code: **HerbSociety**

10% Discount on Richters Herbs products | Discount Code: HSA21

25% Discount on RidgeCrest Herbals products | Discount Code HSA20201

20% Discount on **Botanical Interests** | Discount Code **HSA20**

15% Discount on **Growers Exchange** products | Discount Code: **HSAGIFT**

20% Discount on Herbal Academy's online courses | Discount Code: twenty4hsa_new

10% Discount on The Science and Art of Herbalism online course | Discount Code: HSA

20% Discount on Mountain Rose Herbs products | Discount Code: 2021hsa20

20% Discount on Foster Farm Botanical products | Discount Code: HERBSOCIETY

10% Discount on **Therapeutic Thymes** subscriptions and advertising | Call Jeanne (717) 419-8796

1-year subscription discounts on the **Mother Earth** collection of magazines

ME Gardening - ME Living - ME News - Capper's Farmer - Grit

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HSA PIONEER UNIT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

Due May 1

Name:		Spouse:				
Address:						
City:		State:	Zip Code:			
Phone:	Cell:	E-Mail:				
Birthday (Month/Day	y):		Today's Date:			
(Make M	□ Affiliate (L	Membership Category gle \$67/ joint \$98 □ Life – s Init or Member-at-Large) - sin HSA-Pioneer Unit and give the formula to the common serior of the commo	ingle \$12/ joint \$18			
Program Recommendations:		<u>Field Trip F</u>	Recommendations:			
Active Members: HOW DO Y Working in any Unit-sponse cleaning Herbal Forum at Round T	OU PREFER TO ored garden, such	FULFILL YOUR REQUIRED A as Festival Hill or Brenhan Treparation throughout year s	n ISD, and any other Unit-approved garden, or seed supporting efforts pertaining to preparation of items,			
 ☐ Hosting at a meeting, inclu ☐ Educational activities for presearch articles for newsl ☐ Unit administration, such updating Unit scrapbook, 	ding a.m. refresh romoting the know etter (up to 4 hou as hours spent p sending greeting	vledge, use, and delight of he rs prep), participation in educ performing duties as Officer cards to Unit members	ating, serving lunch, including Angel duties erbs, such as presentations (including a/v),			
WE WELCOME YOUR COM	MENTS, RECOM	MENDATIONS, AND SUGG	ESTIONS:			
(Please utilize another sheet	if necessary)					

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
CG = Culinary Group FH = Festival Hill SG = Sensory Garden	HG = Horticultural Study Group			1	2	3
4	5	6	7 CG 19:00	8 Unit Meeting 1000	9	10
11	12	13 HSA webinar	14	15	16	17
18 Newsletter deadline Email to Irowlett@gmail.com	19	20	21	22 HG 10-noon	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
HG = Horticultural Study Group					1 Honey Bee Jubilee New Ulm
3	4	5 CG 10:00	6	7	8
10	11	12	13 Unit Meeting 1000	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27 HG 10-noon	28	29
31					
	HG = Horticultural Study Group 3 10 17	HG = Horticultural Study Group 3	HG = Horticultural Study Group 4	HG = Horticultural Study Group 4	HG = Horticultural Study Group 4 5 CG 10:00 6 7 10 11 12 13 Unit Meeting 1000 17 18 19 20 21 24 25 26 27 HG 10-noon 28





Volume 28

Editor: Linda L. Rowlett, Ph.D.

Pioneer Paths is a publication of The Herb Society of America, Pioneer Unit. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$10.00 per year.

The Mission Statement of The Herb Society of America: "To promote the knowledge, use, and delight of herbs through educational programs, research, and sharing the experience of its members with the community."

Chair—Kathe Forrest

Vice Chair Programs—Phoebe Lake Vice Chair Membership—Diana Sellers Secretary—Lori Yeats Treasurer—Debi Thomas



2021 HONEY BEE JUBILEE May 1, 2021, New Ulm St. John Lutheran Church Grounds

The Pioneer Unit board voted to participate in the 2021 Honey Bee Jubilee in New Ulm, Texas, and Bonnie Lout has agreed to serve as the coordinator for the event. You can reach Bonnie at 979-270-1895 (cell) or roxielout@gmail.com if you wish to participate in the Unit's booth.

Here is an excerpt from the official notice of the event:

Preparations for the **2021** Honey Bee Jubilee are in full swing! Vendors of both beekeeping supplies and yummy local honey and honey-based goods will be attending. It's all about the honey bee!

For those with an interest of starting their own honey and bee concerns, come check the educational displays and aspects of beekeeping from groups like the Texas Master Naturalists, Herb Society, Wildlife Habitat Federation, Master Gardeners, Local County Beekeeper Clubs, and the Texas Historical Society, among others.